



**Date:** March 18, 2021  
**To:** Members of the Michigan House Natural Resources & Outdoor Recreation Committee  
**From:** Hallie Fox, Government Affairs LA  
**Re:** Support for HBs 4454-4461

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Chairman Howell and Members of the Committee on Natural Resources & Outdoor Recreation:

Michigan LCV would like to offer full and hearty support for House Bills 4454-4461, which amend Part 115 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. These bills serve as an example of how a deliberative, inclusive process with robust stakeholder engagement can deliver sound policy improvements. While not perfect, or completely preferable to any stakeholder, these bills improve the way Michigan communities manage waste materials and the materials recovery process. The time is now to shift away from a statewide disposal capacity strategy to one that prioritizes materials management.

Historically, Michigan has done too little to promote recycling. Our state and local policy regimes have relied on outmoded, wasteful, and costly landfill disposal. These bills move Michigan towards more cost-effective and holistic processes that put a greater emphasis on recycling, composting, and sustainable materials management while increasing protections to prevent taxpayers from being on the hook to monitor and cleanup future waste sites if/when a landfill operator fails to do so.

Michigan, and much of the United States, has gone decades being a mostly “throwaway” society with little thought to where solid waste ends up, and the ramifications are great. Managing used materials as a resource, instead of as waste, is long overdue.

We want to commend Chairman Howell and this large, bi-partisan group of bill sponsors for introducing these bills that move us in the right direction toward expanded recycling programs and a more sustainable waste management program.

On behalf of Michigan LCV's Board of Directors and constituents across the state, we reserve the right to score this legislation positively with an affirmative vote. Thank you again for allowing Michigan LCV to express its support for House Bills 4454-4461. Please do not hesitate to contact our organization to provide clarification or further detail.

Respectfully,

Hallie Fox  
Government Affairs Legislative Aide  
Michigan League of Conservation Voters